



21st Theater Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
Unit Public Affairs Office
USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany
DSN 475-8158
Commercial from U.S.: 011-49-964-183-4197

23rd Ord. Co. builds cohesion through celebrations with a personal touch

By Spc. Nathan Vitartas
23rd Ord. Co.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany - Teamwork and camaraderie are an important part of the day-to-day life in the United States Army. Constant deployments compounded with many Soldiers being stationed overseas thousands of miles away from family, Soldiers often support one another during times of hardship through celebration. Traditionally, personnel in the 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, have supported each other during special days such as birthdays.

Spc. Mario Haddad, a 23rd Ord. Co. supply clerk from San Diego, and with family members split between Israel and California, was surprised to find that the other Soldiers within the company decided to celebrate his birthday at work with a birthday cake on June 13.

“It made me feel I belong and that the people in the company care. I didn’t expect it at all,” said Haddad about his surprise birthday celebration.

“It was great that we are able to support one of our peers with a small gesture that meant a lot to him,” said Spc. Jeremy Schnitzler, a firefighter and personnel actions command clerk for the 23rd Ord. Co. from West Warwick, R.I. and also the one who brought the cake for Haddad.

The same consideration was given April 22 to Spc. William Potts, a native of Opelika, Ala. and an ammunition specialist with the company's 2nd Heavy Lift Platoon. He was called up to the company conference room where his squad leader, Sgt. William Dubnansky from Reno, Nev., had a Star Wars themed cake waiting for him with the rest of the platoon.

"This is awesome! I never had a Star Wars cake before!" exclaimed Potts when he saw his cake.

Simple actions such as taking a break from work to celebrate a fellow Soldier's birthday and other simple acts of friendship help bring the Soldiers of 23rd Ord. Co. closer and create a less stressful work environment.

CUTLINES:



110422-A-ET964-026 – Spc. William Potts, an ammunition specialist with 2nd Heavy Lift Platoon, 23rd Ordnance Company and a native of Opelika, Ala., blows out the candles on his custom Star Wars-themed birthday cake during a birthday celebration put together by his platoon at the 23rd Ord. Co. headquarters in Grafenwoehr, Germany April 22. (Photo by Spc. Nathan Vitartas, 23rd Ord. Co.)



111306-A-ET964-220 – Spc. Mario Haddad, a supply clerk with the 23rd Ordnance Company and a native of San Diego, blows out the candles on his birthday cake during a birthday celebration put on by his peers at the 23rd Ord. Co. headquarters in Grafenwoehr, Germany June 13. (Photo by Spc. Nathan Vitartas, 23rd Ord. Co.)